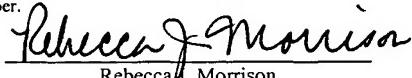


IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of: Thomas E. Drake, Jr., et al.
Serial No. Unknown
Filing Date: Herewith
Group Art Unit: 2877
Examiner: Natividad, Philip Sana
Title: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR ULTRASONIC LASER TESTING

Certification Under 37 C.F.R. 1.10**Date of Mailing: August 5, 2003**

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Rebecca J. Morrison

Dear Sir:

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Please amend this continuation application as follows:

IN THE SPECIFICAITON

On page 1, paragraph 1, please delete the first paragraph under RELATED APPLICATIONS and add the following paragraph:

RELATED APPLICATIONS:

[0001] This application is a continuation of U.S. patent application no. 09/343,920 filed June 30, 1999 entitled, "METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR ULTRASONIC LASER TESTING", which claims the benefit of U.S. Provisional Application No. 60/091,240 filed on 30 June 1998, and incorporates by reference the prior of U.S. Provisional Application No. 60/091,229 filed on 30 June 1998 entitled, METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR DETECTING ULTRASONIC SURFACE DISPLACEMENTS USING POST-COLLECTION OPTICAL AMPLIFICATION by Thomas E. Drake.